

Knoxville Neighborhood Advisory – Vol. 10, No. 27 – Tuesday, July 25, 2017

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Published by the City of Knoxville's Office of Neighborhoods to report news important to Knoxville's residential neighborhoods. Include your neighborhood-related event or meeting in this space. Call 215-4382. News deadline: 5 p.m. Mondays.

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1. Go Vote! Knoxville: Sixth District Meeting Today

The fifth of six community meetings in the City of Knoxville's "Go Vote! Knoxville" campaign will be held from 5:30 to 7 p.m. today --- Tuesday, July 25 --- at the John T. O'Connor Center, 611 Winona Street.

Mayor Madeline Rogero will discuss the importance of the upcoming election for five of the nine seats on Knoxville City Council. The primary will be held Tuesday, Aug. 29, and the general election is on Tuesday, Nov. 7.

She will also introduce the 13 candidates for the Sixth District Seat, now held by Daniel Brown, who is term limited. The new Council will take their seats in December.

Voters in the 5th Council District will not be able to vote in the Aug. 29 Primary --- incumbent Mark Campen is not up for reelection this year --- but they will be able to vote for candidates in other districts in the Nov. 7 General Election. Therefore, a "Go Vote" meeting for the 5th District is planned for Thursday, Sept. 7, at Christenberry Community Center, 931 Oglewood Ave.

Visit www.GoVoteKnoxville.com for details about the election, including links to the web pages or websites of most of the 30 candidates in the race.

2. Wednesday Workshop: Zoning and Why You Should Care

What is zoning? What is a sector plan? Why should I care? How does it affect me? How do I get involved?

These questions are more frequent now that the City of Knoxville is engaged in [Recode Knoxville](#) --- a massive effort to overhaul the city's zoning ordinances.

To answer those questions in an informal setting, the staff of the Knoxville-Knox County Metropolitan Planning Commission ([MPC](#)) is offering a workshop --- "[Zoning and Why You Should Care](#)" --- at 5:30 p.m. this Wednesday, July 26, at Barley's, 200 E Jackson Ave. There will be time for Q&A and citizen input.

Plan to attend if you are not familiar with zoning, if you wish to be more engaged locally, if you want to improve your community --- and if you like informal meetings.

In short, this is a free event. It's civic engagement. You can order your own beer and pizza. What's not to enjoy? So come join the conversation.

3. PARC Quarterly Meeting Set for Thursday

The Police Advisory Review Committee ([PARC](#)) will hold its quarterly meeting at 6 p.m. this coming Thursday, July 27, in the Small Assembly Room of the City County Building. The meeting is open to the public and particularly to those citizens with concerns about crime and safety.

4. Four Projects Slated to Present at Knoxville SOUP

Knoxville SOUP, a micro-funding event, will be held this Thursday, July 27, at the South Knoxville Community Center, 522 Maryville Pike. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. The projects chosen to make presentations this month are:

- *** Central Cinema: "Neighborhood Theater" Moviehouse
- *** City of Refuge, Inc.: Using the Arts to Build a Family Support System
- *** Montgomery Village Residents Association: Back to School Supplies Drive
- *** South Knoxville Community Center: Better Serving a Growing, Older Population

Attendees pay a suggested donation of \$5.00 at the door, get a dinner of soup and salad, hear the presentations, and vote on their favorite project. All of the money collected at the door goes to the group with the most votes.

There is also a raffle with prizes from South Knoxville merchants. For more, visit www.knoxvillesoup.org.

5. Testify on Blighted Properties at Public Officer Hearing

Fourteen properties are on the agenda for the City's next Public Officer Hearing at 9:30 a.m. Friday, July 28.

The Public Officer --- Public Works Director David Brace --- will hear testimony on buildings that inspectors contend are in violation of the city's building codes. Testimony

can also be made by the property owners, neighbors, neighborhood groups, and other stakeholders, such as lien holders.

The Public Officer then decides whether to issue an order requiring that the violations be addressed in a certain period of time. Failure by the owner to cure the problem may result in the boarding or demolition of a structure, or the cleanup of a dirty or overgrown lot, with costs billed to the owner. A property owner may appeal the Public Officer's decision to the Better Building Board and, ultimately, to Chancery Court.

The properties to be heard for repair/demolition orders are 5100 Central Avenue Pike; 4900 Farland Drive; 2422 Harvey Street, including accessory structure (confirmation of emergency repair only order); 108 Knox Road (confirmation of emergency repair/demolition order on this commercial property); 1121 Loves Creek Road; 2004 Natchez Avenue; 1007 Tennessee Avenue, including accessory structure; and 2554 Woodbine Avenue.

The Public Officer will be asked to approve previous board-ups of houses located at 4625 Asheville Highway, 2027 Coker, 220 Connex Street, 1020 Groner Drive, and 1905 Riverside Drive.

If any of these properties are in your neighborhood, you or a representative of your organization may wish to attend the meeting to submit testimony about the impact of the property on the neighborhood. The full July 28 agenda, with details on each property, can be found [here](#).

6. Council Sets Dates for Workshops on Short-Term Rentals

Vice-Mayor Duane Grieve has set the dates for two additional workshops on the City's proposed ordinance to regulate short-term rentals.

*** Thursday, Aug. 3, 2017, at 5:30pm in the Main Assembly Room, City County Building, 400 Main Street.

*** Thursday, Aug. 10, 2017, at 5:30pm at the Public Works Complex, 3131 Morris Avenue, located near Lorraine Street just south of Middlebrook Pike and the West View neighborhood.

The ordinance was on the agenda of the July 18 City Council meeting, but Council voted to postpone the matter 90 days to take in additional public comment. For background information, including the draft ordinance, [see this web page](#).

7. Mayor, Others to Cut Ribbon on Young High Sidewalk

Mayor Madeline Rogero, City Council, and City officials will cut the ribbon for a 1,600-foot (0.3-mile) extension of sidewalk along West Young High Pike.

The ribbon cutting will take place at 10:30 a.m. Monday, July 31, at the Chapman Square Shopping Center, 4409 Chapman Hwy.

The West Young High Pike sidewalk will connect a large number of residential homes to the Chapman Square Shopping Center, an existing sidewalk system, and a Knoxville Area Transit (KAT) shelter on Chapman Highway.

In addition to sidewalk construction and drainage improvements, the \$382,000 project includes the installation of accessible ramps and pedestrian signals that will help residents cross Chapman Highway to a major KAT bus stop. This will impact passengers using routes 40, 41, and 45.

The City's budget for the fiscal year beginning this month prioritized sidewalk construction by adding \$2.2 million to the funding.

8. SKNBC to Host District 1 Forum

The South Knoxville Neighborhood and Business Coalition (SKNBC) will host a First District City Council Candidates Forum at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 1, at Woodlawn Christian Church, 4339 Woodlawn Pike.

SKNBC is made up of representatives from neighborhood associations in South Knoxville and the [South Knoxville Alliance](#), which is composed of businesses and other organizations.

Four candidates are running for the First District City Council Seat: Greg Knox, Rebecca Parr, Stephanie Welch, and Andrew Wilson. This seat is currently held by Nick Pavlis, who is term limited.

For the City of Knoxville Primary Election, early voting runs from Wednesday, Aug. 9, through Thursday, Aug. 24. Election Day is on Tuesday, Aug. 29. See the Knox County Election Commission's [website](#) for more information. Districts 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 will each choose their top two candidates, who will then run city wide in the Nov. 7 General Election.

9. MPC Drafts New Cell Tower Ordinances, Schedules Meeting

The good news: Cell phone towers will be getting smaller.

The bad news: There are going to be more of them, and they will be closer together.

When the city and county cell phone ordinances were last updated in 2001, Knoxville residents were using cell phones on a 2G (second generation) system. But the landscape has changed dramatically in the last 16 years.

Simply put, a single cell phone tower in 2001 could cover hundreds if not thousands of telephone conversations over a wide area. But the introduction of smart phones and other electronic devices has generated an insatiable demand for data. Now that same tower has to concentrate on a smaller area with a smaller number of customers sending and receiving pictures, videos, and other data, in addition to voice and text.

With the upcoming introduction of 5G technology, even more data can be transferred at higher speeds, requiring that towers be smaller and closer together. Therefore, MPC is proposing new ordinances which, according to MPC, provide 11 improvements over existing regulations. For example, landscape and screening standards are improved.

MPC will present the new ordinances and answer questions at a public meeting at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 31, at the Cansler Family YMCA, 616 Jessamine St.

One thing will not change: Federal law preempts state law and local controls regarding cell towers. To a limited degree, federal law allows local governments to regulate the placement of cell phone towers, but the cell phone company's primary hurdle is to prove that a particular tower location is essential to providing service to its customers --- and that it does not have access to another tower or structure on which to place its antenna in order to obtain the required coverage.

For details and the text of both the city and county ordinances, see [this MPC web page](#).

10. This Wednesday: Learn How to Reduce Your KUB Bill

If you are interested in learning how to reduce and manage your utility bill, attend the latest "Savings in the House" workshop at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 26, at the Public Works Building, 3131 Morris Avenue.

The workshop is free and lasts one hour. Participants will discover simple ways to reduce their utility bills and learn more about KUB's Advanced Metering. Find out about energy efficiency and weatherization as well. Offered by the Alliance to Save Energy, this workshop can also be offered to neighborhood and community groups. Contact Jennifer Alldredge at 615-830-1875 or jalldredge@ase.org.

11. Knoxville Neighborhoods Calendar (clickable to online calendar)

Call 215-4382 to include your neighborhood event or meeting in [this Google calendar](#).

If you are a person with a disability who requires an accommodation in order to attend a City of Knoxville public meeting, please contact Stephanie Brewer Cook at scook@knoxvilletn.gov or 215-2034 no less than 72 hours prior to the meeting you wish to attend. For an English interpreter, contact the City Law Department at 865-215-2050.

Other Calendars

Here are several other online calendars that cover events outside of the neighborhood realm:

- [Arts & Culture Alliance](#) (There's More to Knoxville)
- [Arts & Fine Crafts Center Classes](#) (City of Knoxville)
- [Birdhouse Community Center](#)
- [City of Knoxville General Calendar](#)

About This Newsletter

*** This Advisory is produced on most Tuesdays of the year.*

*** Ideas and contributions are welcome. We reserve the right to edit submissions.*

*** Deadline for news & calendar items: 5 p.m. Mondays*

*** May be copied and forwarded via neighborhood e-mail lists and newsletters.*

*** See past issues at our Website: <http://www.knoxvilletn.gov/neighborhoods>*

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